

THE CHICAGO PORTAGE A LASTING GIFT

IWWSG
September 20, 2023

Richard Lanyon

Photo by Rick Drew on Wikipedia



West Fork



North Branch

South Branch

Chicago River

LAKE MICHIGAN

CHICAGO LITHOGRAPHING CO.

CHICAGO IN 1820.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS IN THE YEAR 1867 BY H. NENKE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



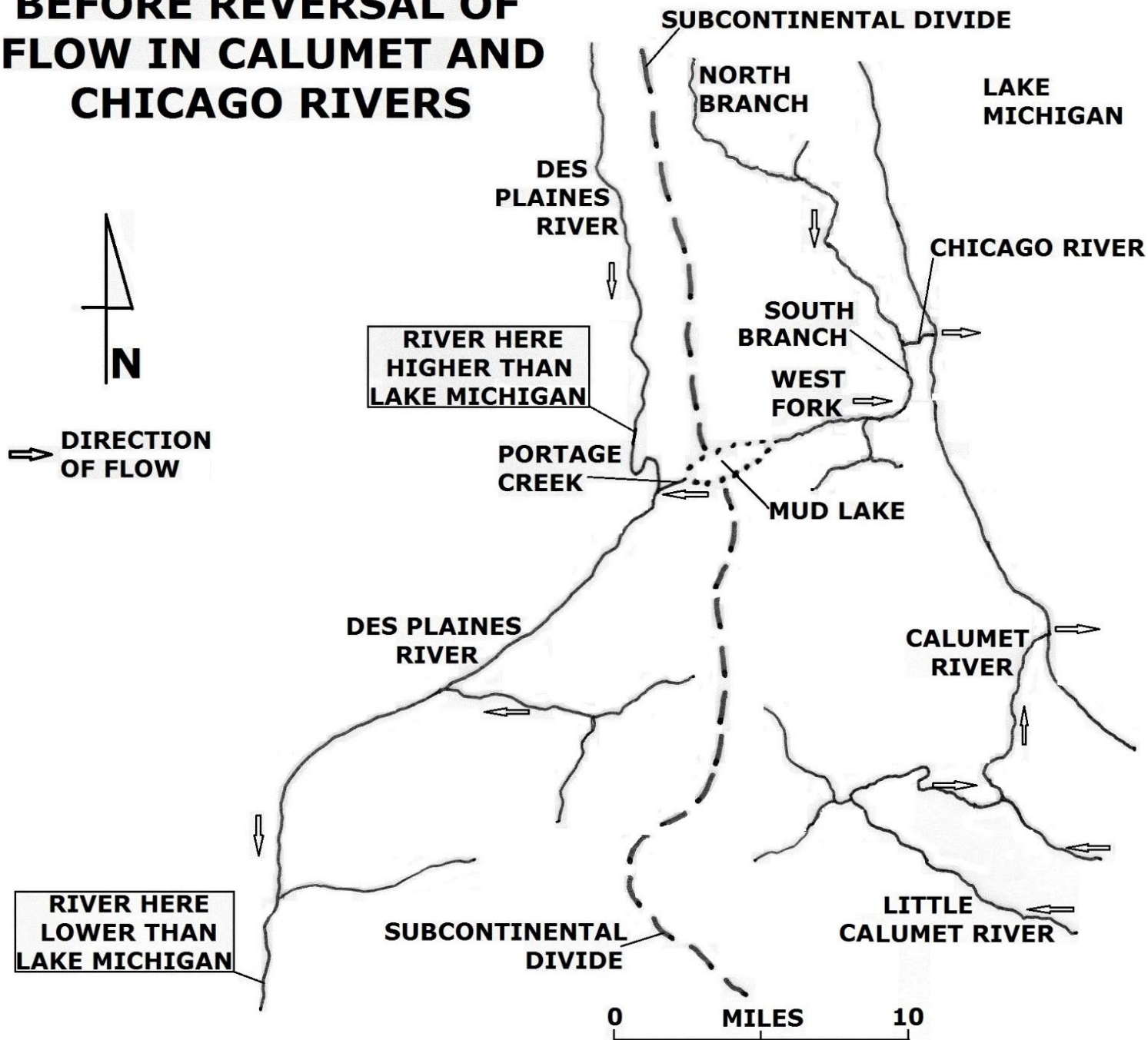
Chicago Historical Museum labels added

Dead River at Illinois Beach State Park



Photo courtesy of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

BEFORE REVERSAL OF FLOW IN CALUMET AND CHICAGO RIVERS



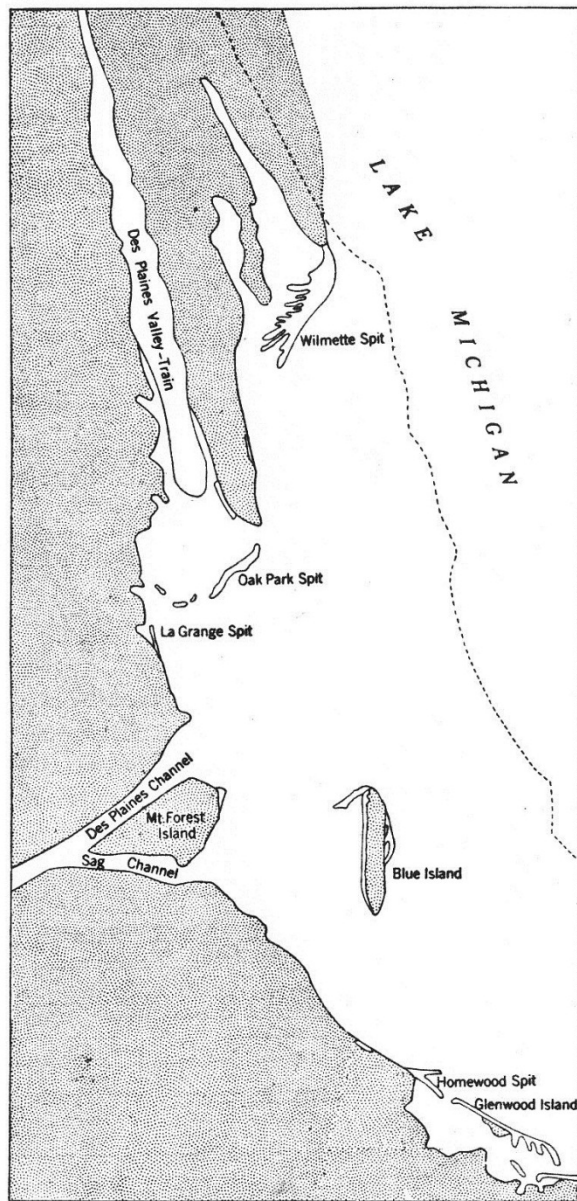


FIG. 85.—Sketch map of the Chicago region during the Glenwood stage of Lake Chicago.

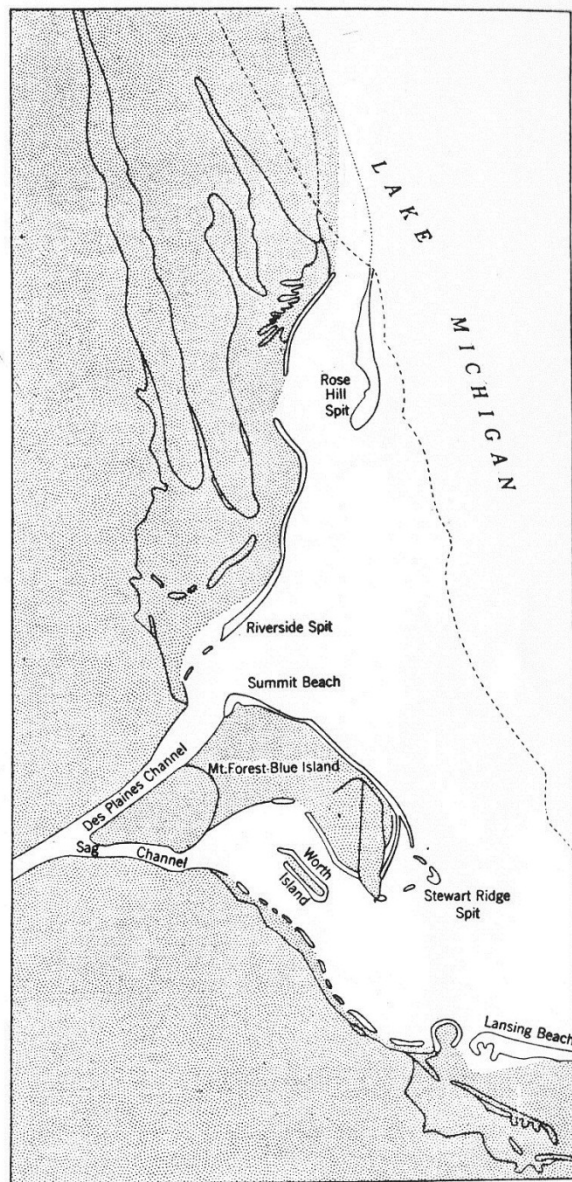


FIG. 86.—Sketch map of Chicago region during the Calumet stage of Lake Chicago.

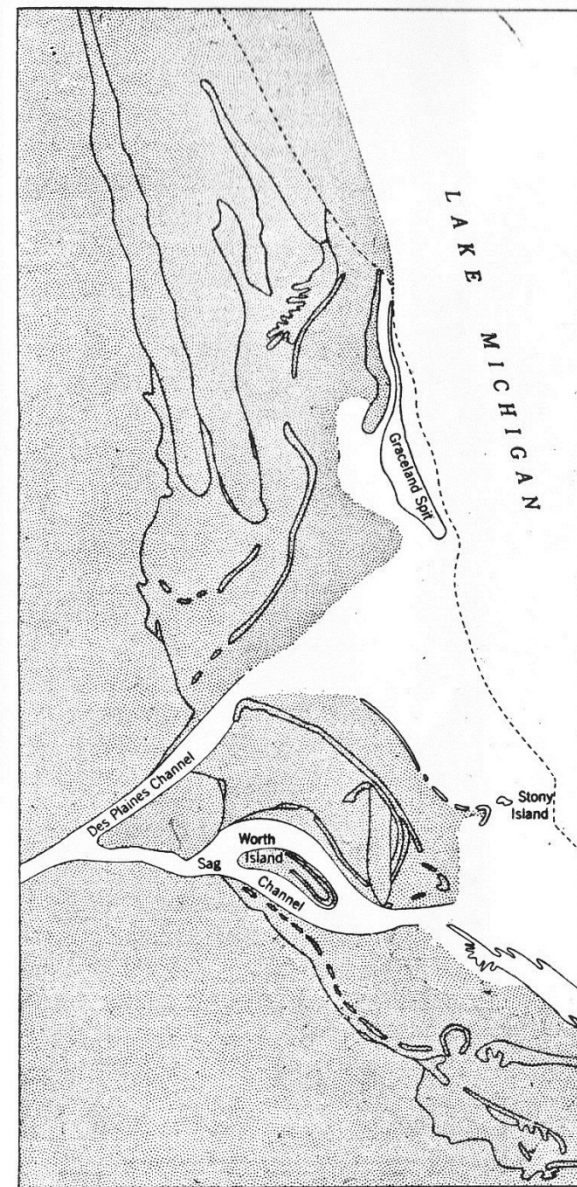
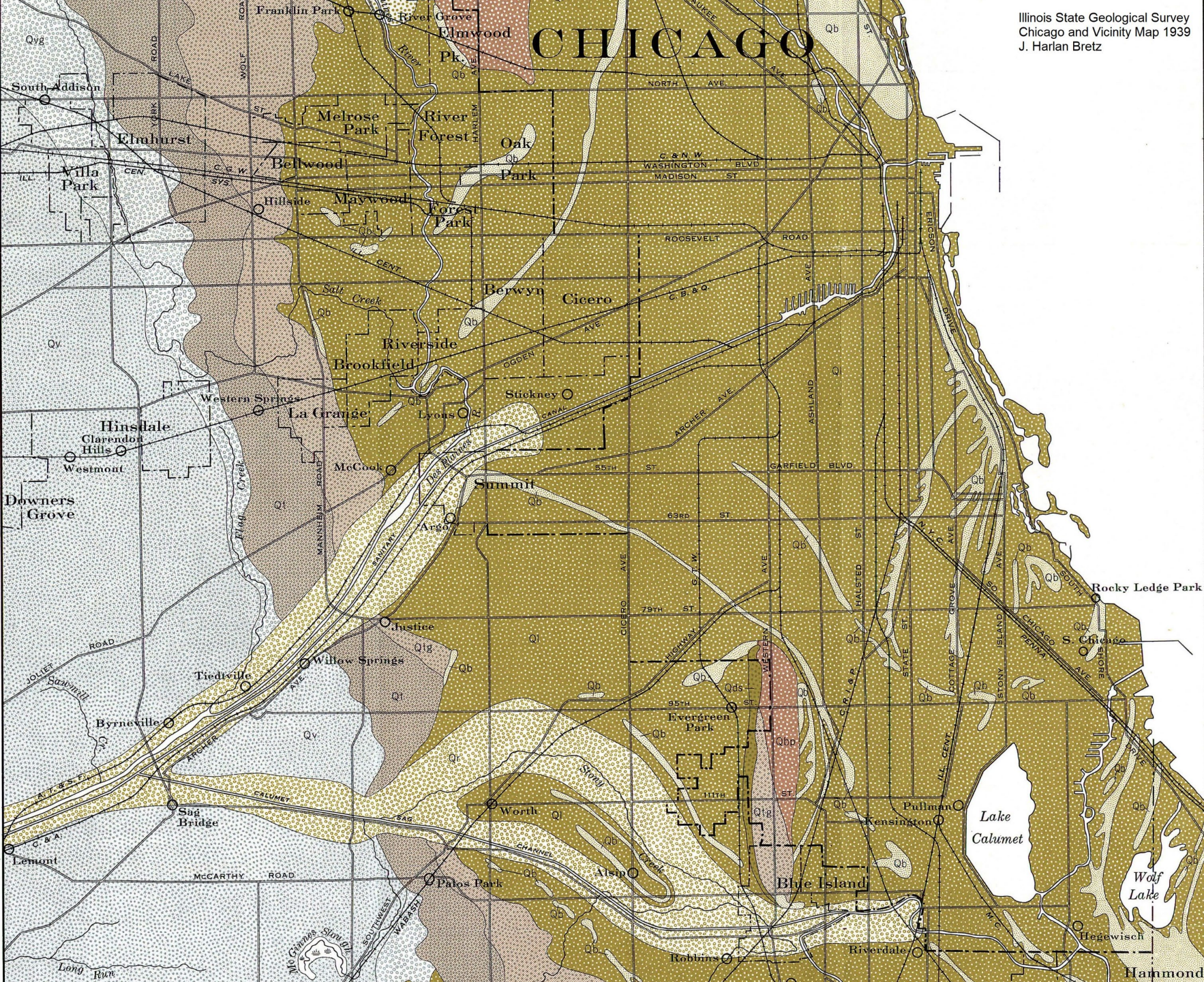


FIG. 87.—Sketch map of the Chicago region during the Toleston stage of Lake Chicago.



Chicago (Chicagou in the Algonquin tongue) was named for the wild onions that grew in abundance on the river banks.

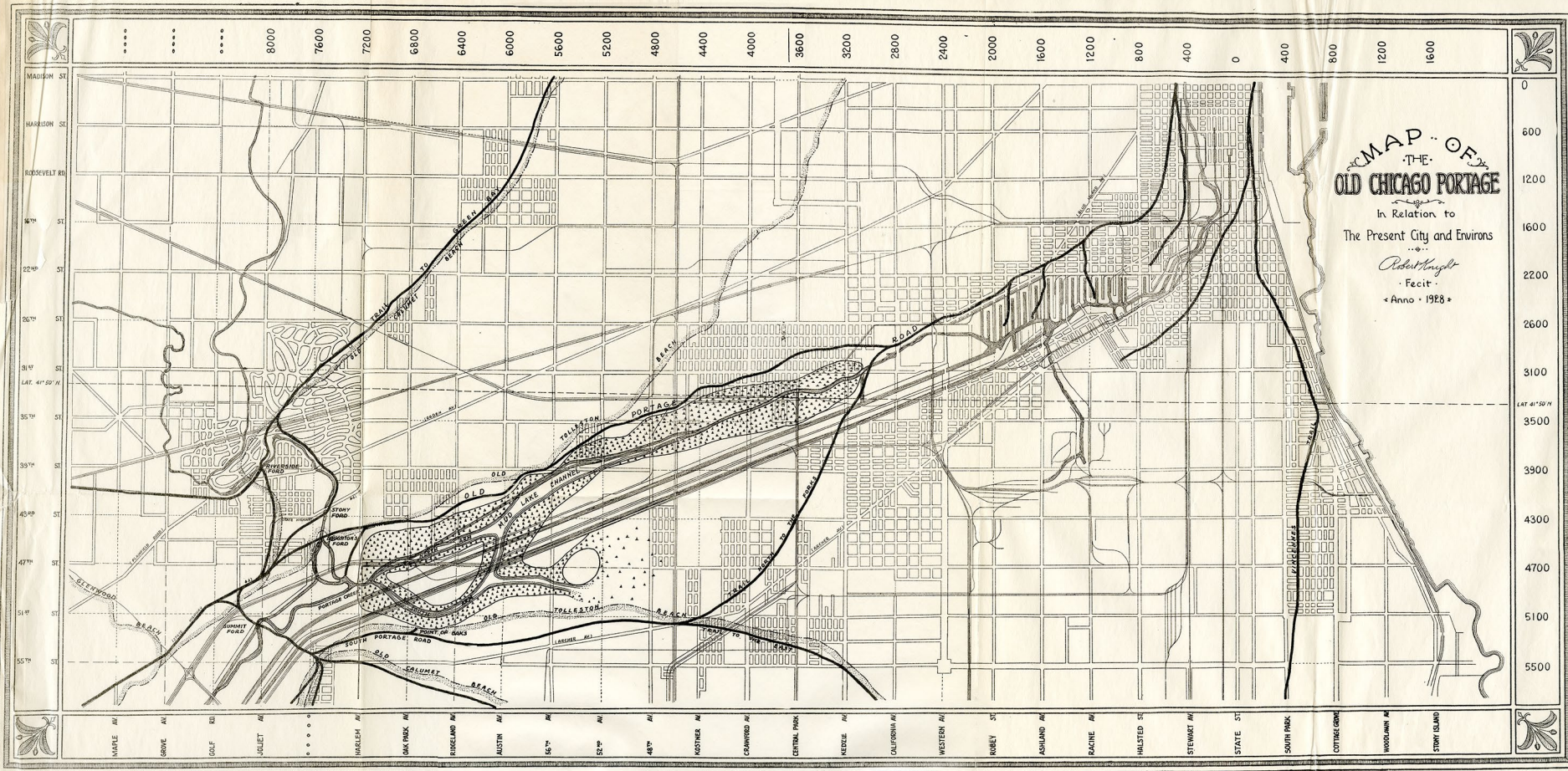


1673 Guided by Indians, Pere Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit Missionary and Louis Jolliet, an explorer arrive at the portage to Lake Michigan.

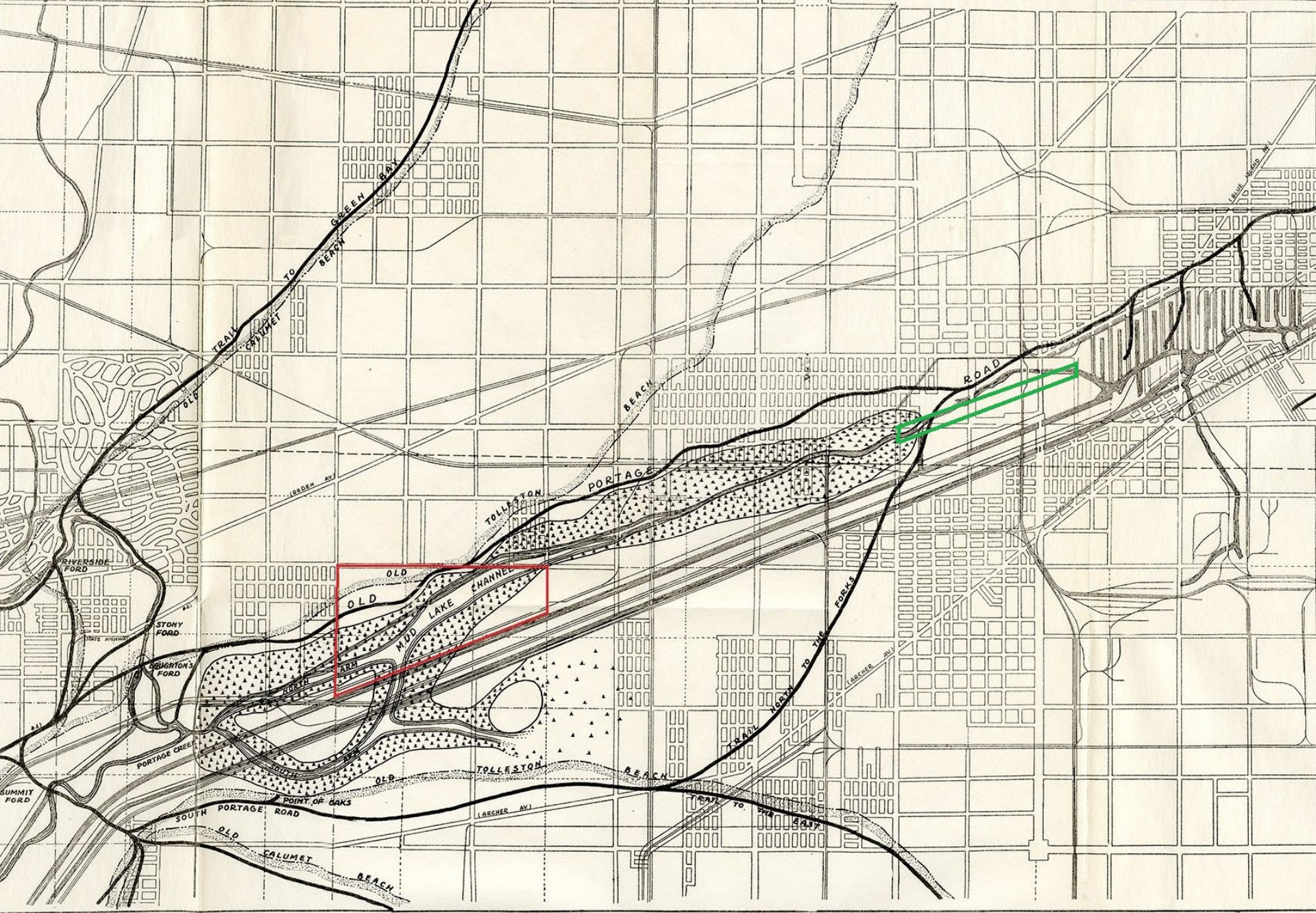
Jolliet foretold of the canal which would one day allow passage to

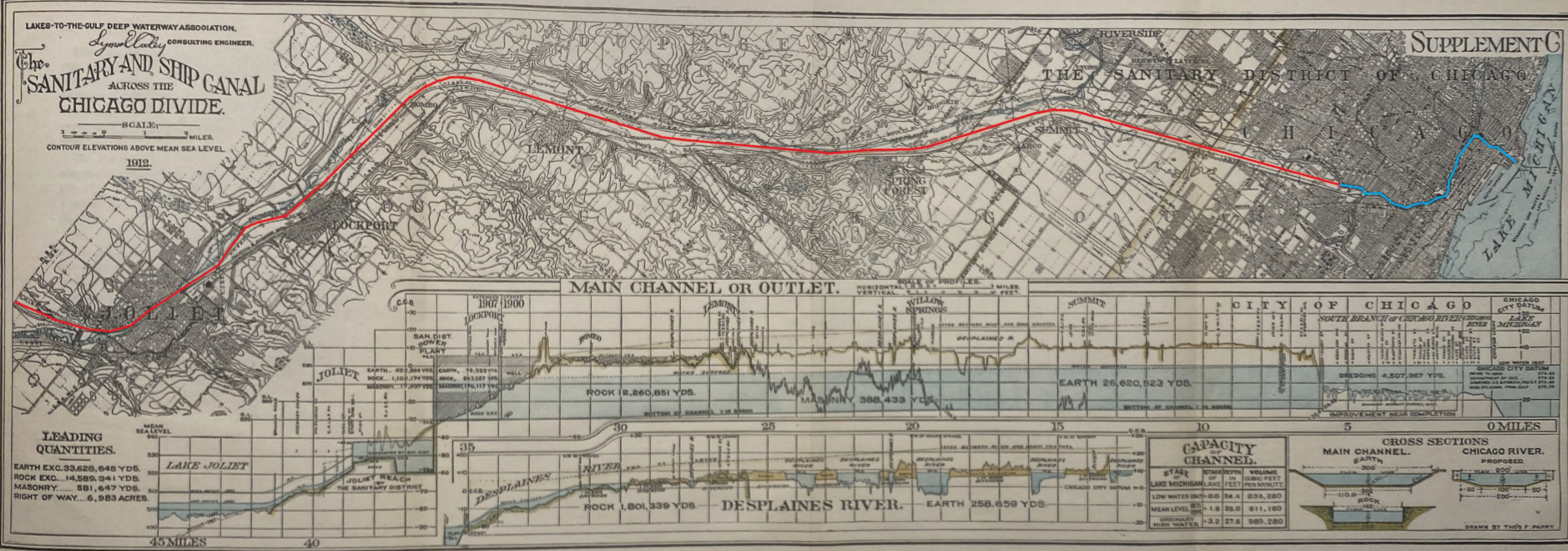
Le Fort's map of 1703 used Chagakou and Lac des Illinois to indicate the portage and site of Chicago on Lake Michigan

Riverwalk Gateway Mural No. 1 by Ellen Lanyon



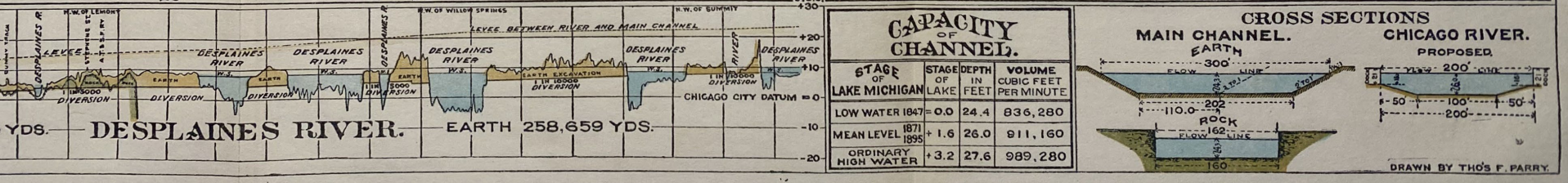
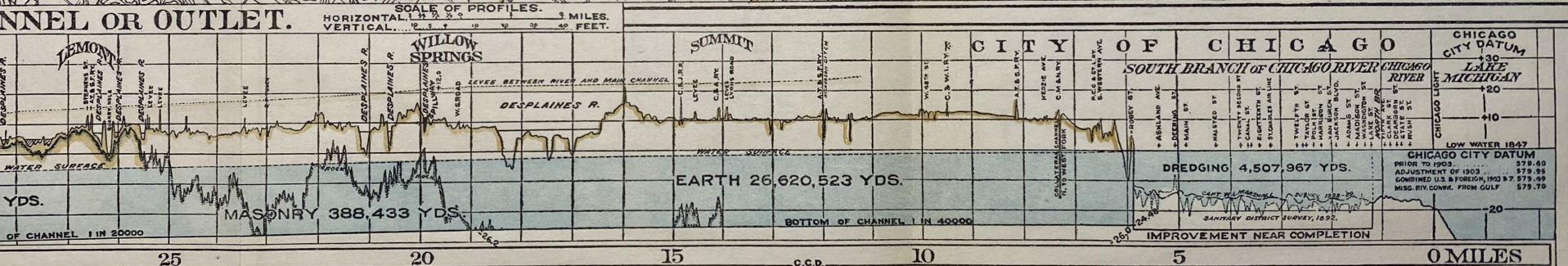
Knight, Robert and Zeuch, Lucius, *The Location of the Chicago Portage Route of the Seventeenth Century*, The Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, 1928





JOLIET LOCKPORT LEMONT SUMMIT CHICAGO

PLAN AND PROFILE FROM CHICAGO TO JOLIET ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF THE CONNECTING WATERWAYS

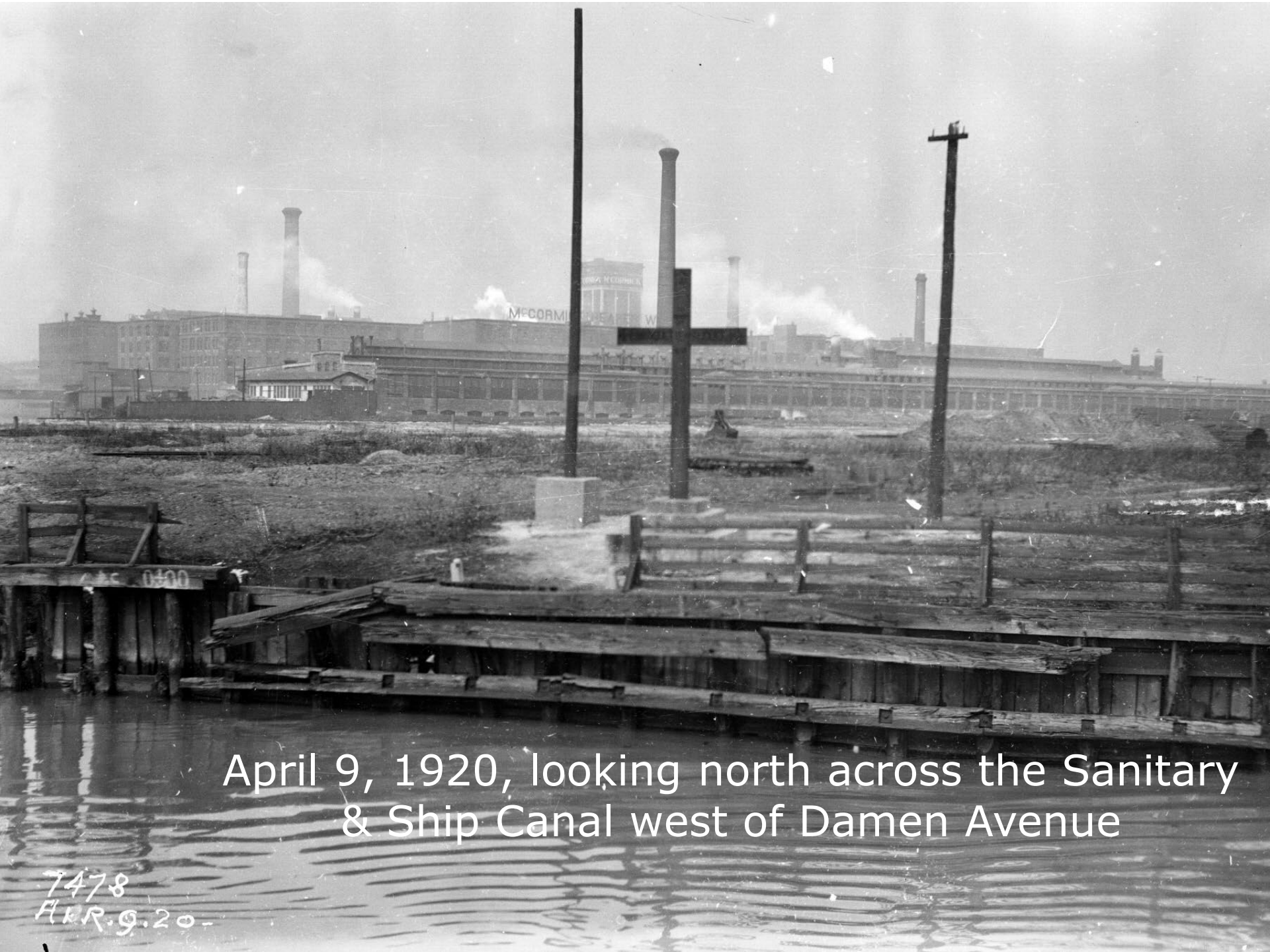


PLAN AND PROFILE FROM CHICAGO TO LEMONT
ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF THE CONNECTING WATERWAYS

Diversion of Water from the Great Lakes at Chicago, Lyman E. Cooley, February 1913



Page 12 of
Currey's 1912
book, *Chicago: Its
History and Its
Builders*, memorial
cross located on
the north bank of
the West Fork,
South Branch,
Chicago River,
where Damen
Avenue would have
crossed the river.
Tablet: "Father
Marquette landed
here in 1675"



April 9, 1920, looking north across the Sanitary & Ship Canal west of Damen Avenue

7478
APR. 9. 20



MARQUETTE MONUMENT
2900 South Damen Avenue
East side of street
North of bridge over the South
Branch West Fork
Installed 1930

卐 JAMES MARQUETTE 卐

FRENCH PRIEST OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
ON HIS MISSION TO THE ILLINOIS INDIANS,
SPENT HERE THE WINTER OF 1674-1675.
HIS JOURNAL FIRST BROUGHT TO THE WORLD'S
ATTENTION THE ADVANTAGES OF SOIL, CLIMATE
AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES IN THE MISS-
ISSIPPI VALLEY AND THE GREAT LAKES BASIN.

ERECTED BY THE CITY OF CHICAGO

WILLIAM HALE THOMPSON MAYOR

ANNO DOMINI MCMXXX

MICHAEL J. FAHERTY
PRES. BOARD OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS



MARQUETTE MONUMENT

5800 Archer Avenue
Summit, IL

West side of street

Installed 1895

FATHER MARQUETTE LANDED HERE
1675

THIS MONUMENT IS CONSTRUCTED
OF BOULDERS BROUGHT BY THE
GLACIER FROM LAKE SUPERIOR
REGION AND DEPOSITED IN THIS
VALLEY HAVING TRAVERSED THE
ROUTE LATER FOLLOWED BY THE
EARLIER FRENCH EXPLORERS.

LA SALLE, JOLIEF
AND
FATHER MARQUETTE

ERECTED BY
CHICAGO & ALTON RAILROAD CO.
AUGUST, 1895

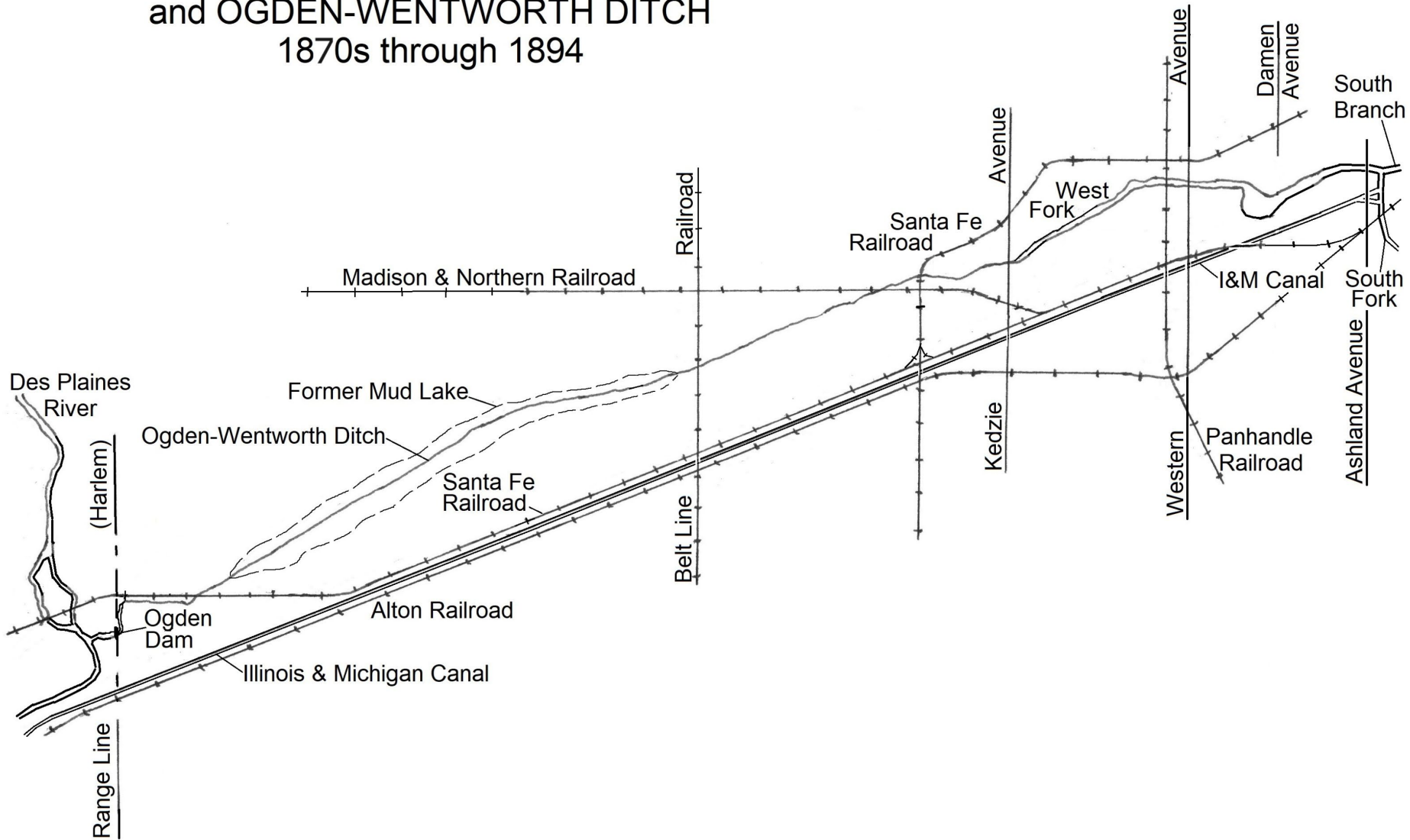


Monument on Marshall Boulevard at 24th Street

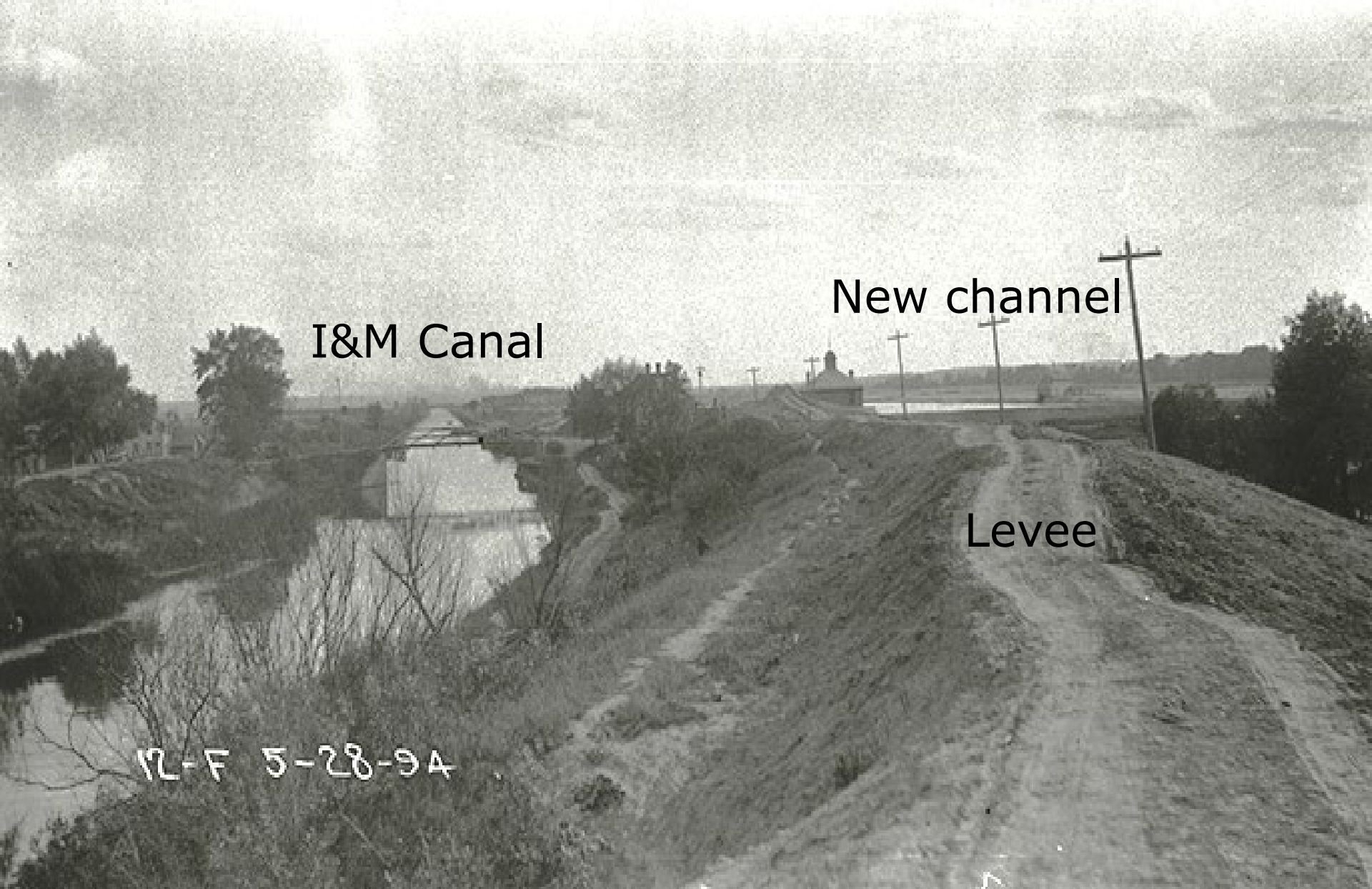
ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL

- 1673, Jolliet made it sound simple, but...
- 1816, indigenous tribes cede land for route
- 1818, Illinois admitted to Union
- 1825, Erie Canal opens
- 1836, construction starts, stops in 1841
- 1843, loans authorized with Eastern backing
- 1845, construction resumes
- 1848, canal opens, instantly successful
- 1871, deep cut constructed, fails by 1874
- 1933, operation ends, replaced by Illinois Waterway
- 1984, first US National Heritage Corridor

ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL, RAILROADS and OGDEN-WENTWORTH DITCH 1870s through 1894



May 28, 1894, looking southwest along the I&M Canal
toward the Summit-Lyons (Lawndale Avenue) Bridge



I&M Canal

New channel

Levee

MAY 28 1894

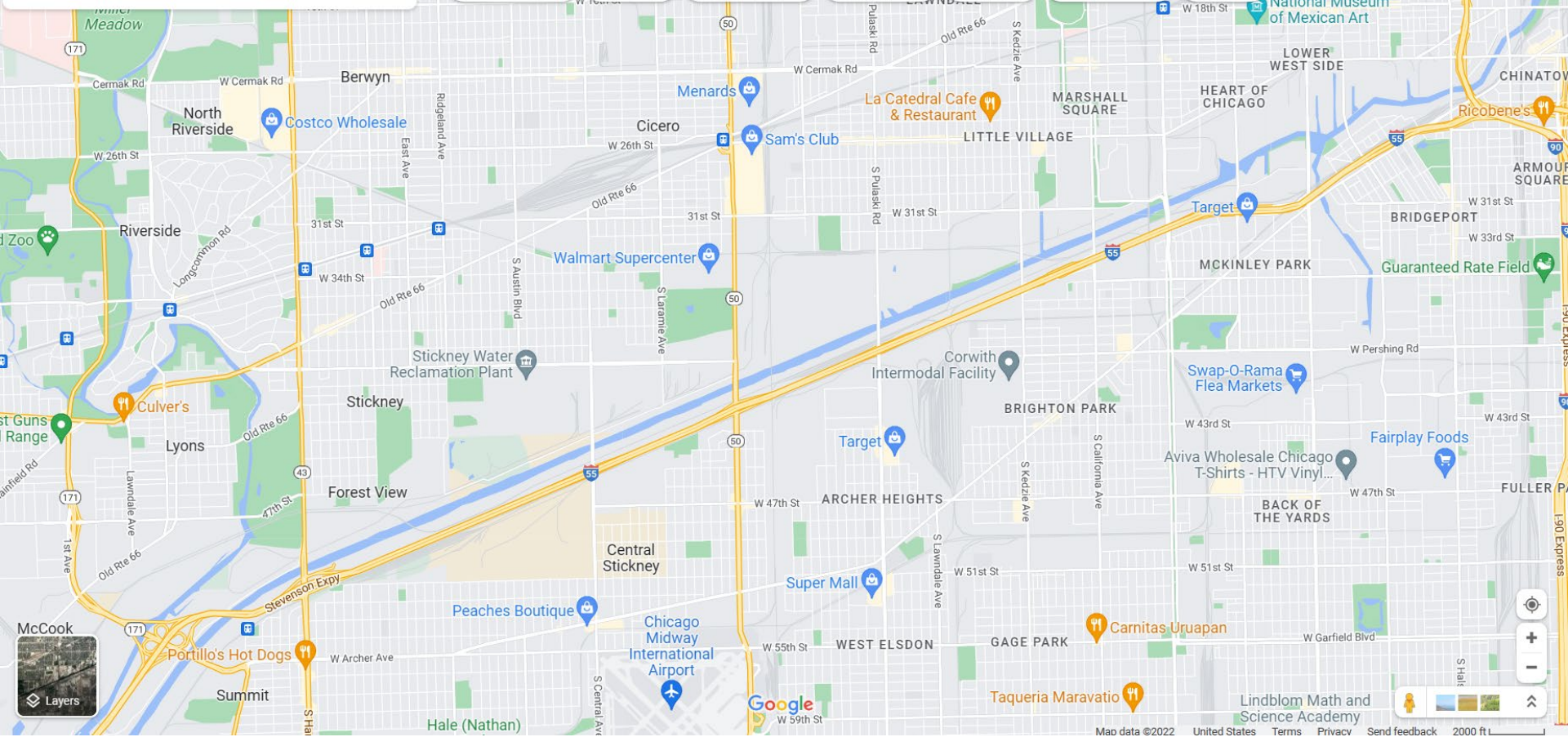


Illinois & Michigan Canal
at Lemont, circa 1894

June 16, 1920, looking easterly at the California Avenue Bridge crossing the abandoned I&M Canal



611
JUNE. 16. 20-

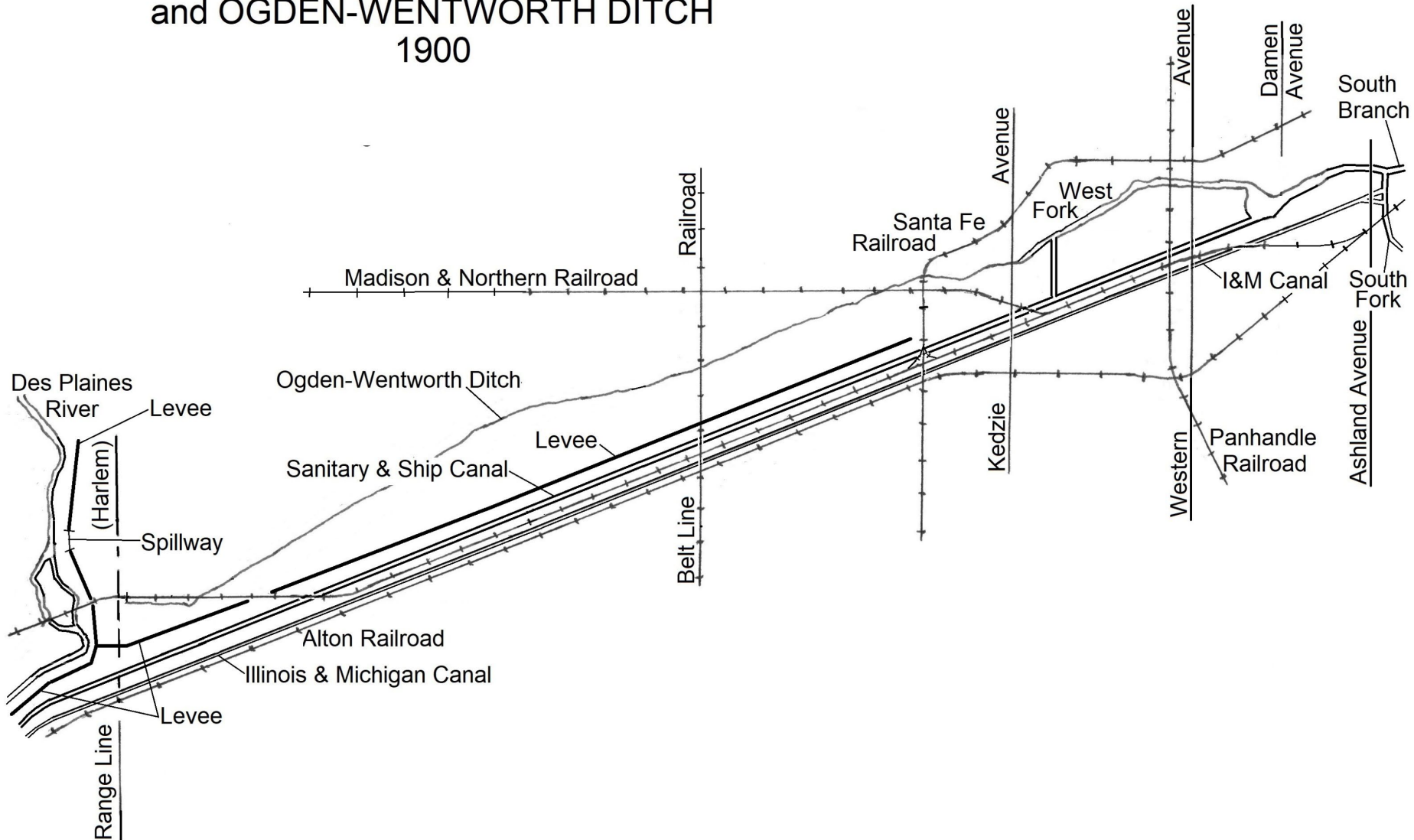


In 1964, the Stevenson Expressway in Chicago was opened. Between Damen Avenue and Harlem Avenue it was built on the I&M Canal right-of-way.

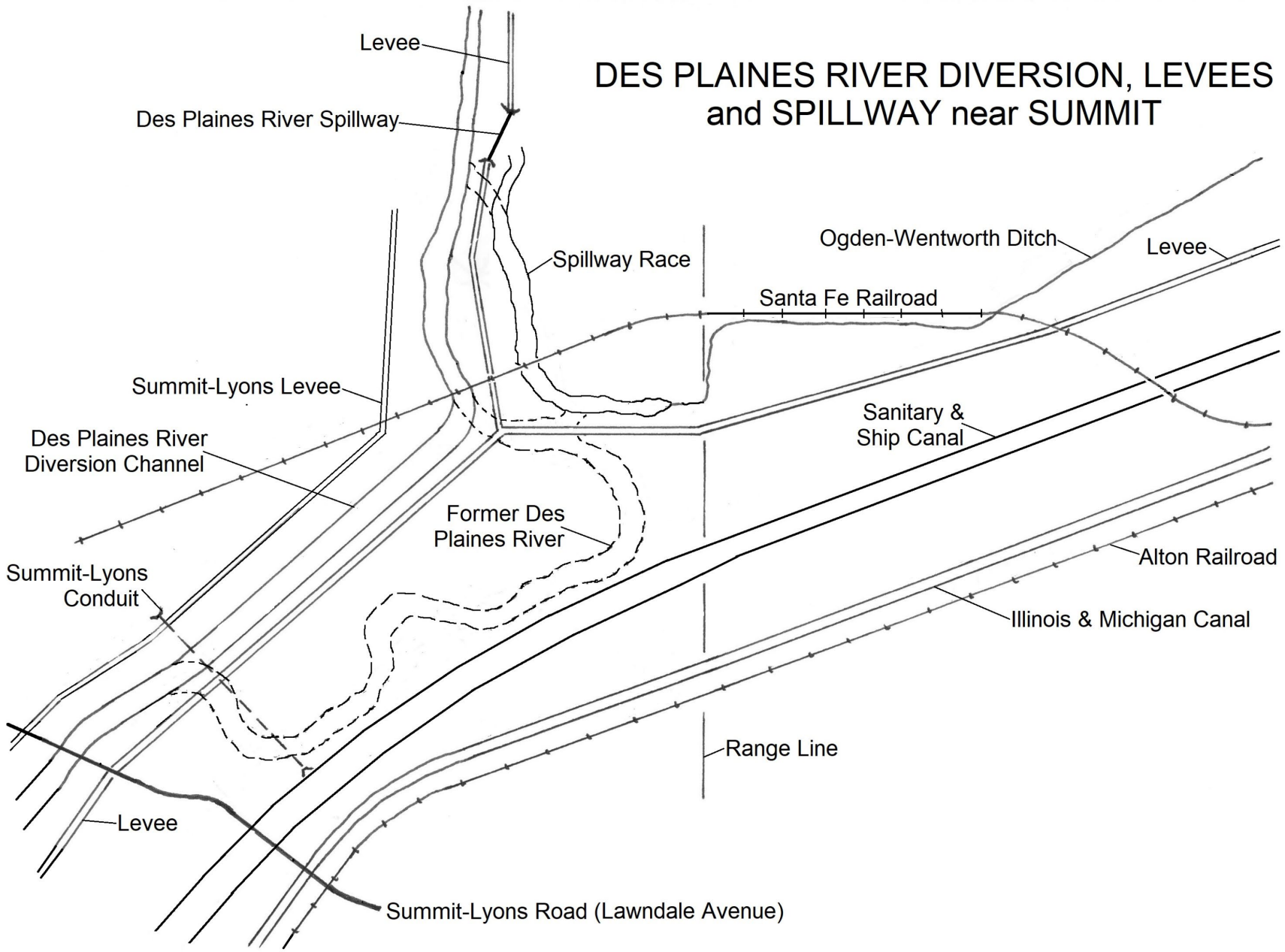
SANITARY & SHIP CANAL

- 1886, Chicago accepts plan
- 1887, legislation introduced
- 1889, Sanitary District Act approved
- 1892, construction begins
- 1894, Riverside levee and spillway completed
- 1900, S&SC in operation, river flow reversed
- 1907, S&SC extended 4 miles, lock and powerhouse in operation

CHICAGO SANITARY & SHIP CANAL, ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL, RAILROADS and OGDEN-WENTWORTH DITCH 1900



DES PLAINES RIVER DIVERSION, LEVEES and SPILLWAY near SUMMIT



Levee

Des Plaines River Spillway

Spillway Race

Ogden-Wentworth Ditch

Levee

Santa Fe Railroad

Summit-Lyons Levee

Sanitary & Ship Canal

Des Plaines River Diversion Channel

Former Des Plaines River

Alton Railroad

Summit-Lyons Conduit

Illinois & Michigan Canal

Range Line

Levee

Summit-Lyons Road (Lawndale Avenue)



Des Plaines River Spillway and Levee
March 8, 1894

Harlem Avenue, looking north
from near Chicago Portage site
April 19, 2013



Gary Mechanic Photo



Des Plaines River Levee
May 24, 2013

Des Plaines River Levee
Looking south from Joliet
Road on February 15, 2023





Steam Shovel Excavating Overburden 1894

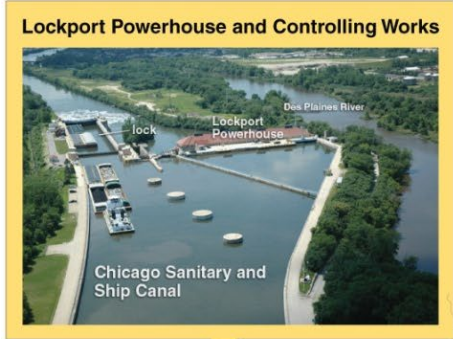
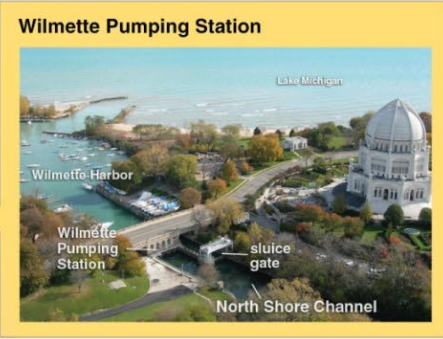


500 Pound Dynamite Blast, May 22, 1895, near Lemont

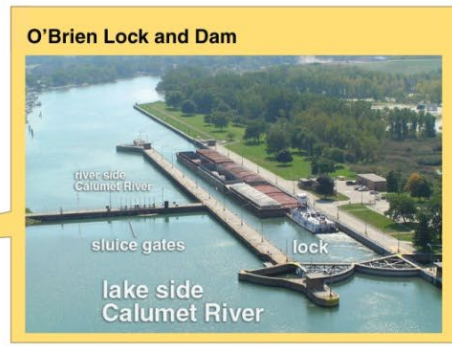


Water Rushing over the Bear Trap Dam, January 20, 1900
Lockport, IL

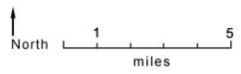
CHICAGO WATERWAY SYSTEM LOCKPORT POOL



77-mile network of canals with three inlets on lakefront...



...and one outlet at Lockport



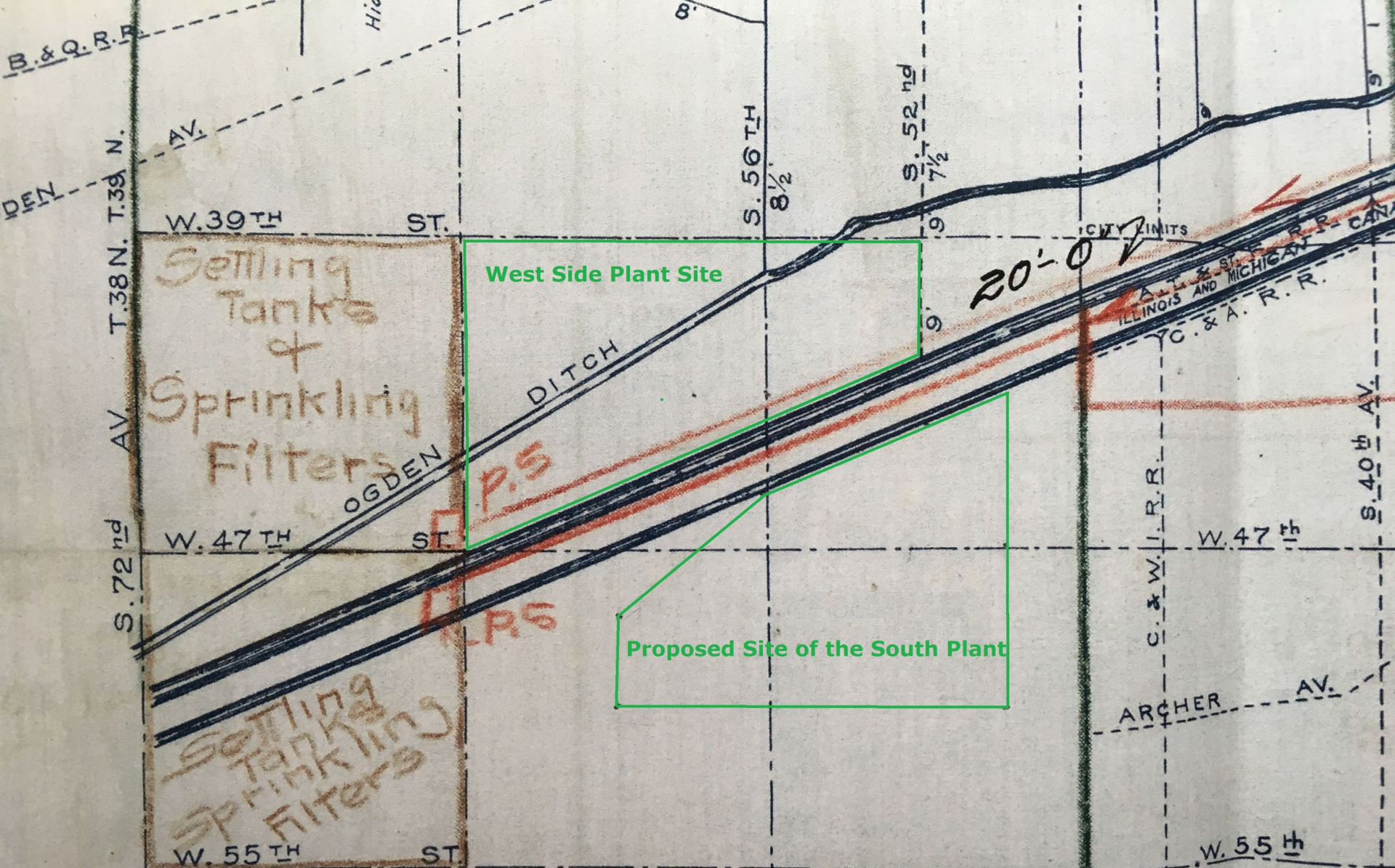
OGDEN-WENTWORTH DITCH and WEST FORK

- After 1900, OWD continued to be useful for local drainage, becoming less used as sewer systems were built
- 1913, MWRD built a sewer across the bed of the OWD along 39th Street east of Central Avenue
- OWD future tied to the West Fork
- 1923, US declares the West Fork west of Albany Avenue to be non-navigable, Chicago begins filling it in
- 1935, US declares the West Fork west of Damen Avenue to be non-navigable, Chicago begins filling it in

July 16, 1928, looking east along 39th Street from a point east of Central Avenue. The West 39th Street sewer in the foreground was built in 1913 to convey sewage and stormwater from Cicero and Oak Park to the S&SC



14163
JULY 16, 28



Sewage Collection and Treatment Planning by the Sanitary District circa 1920

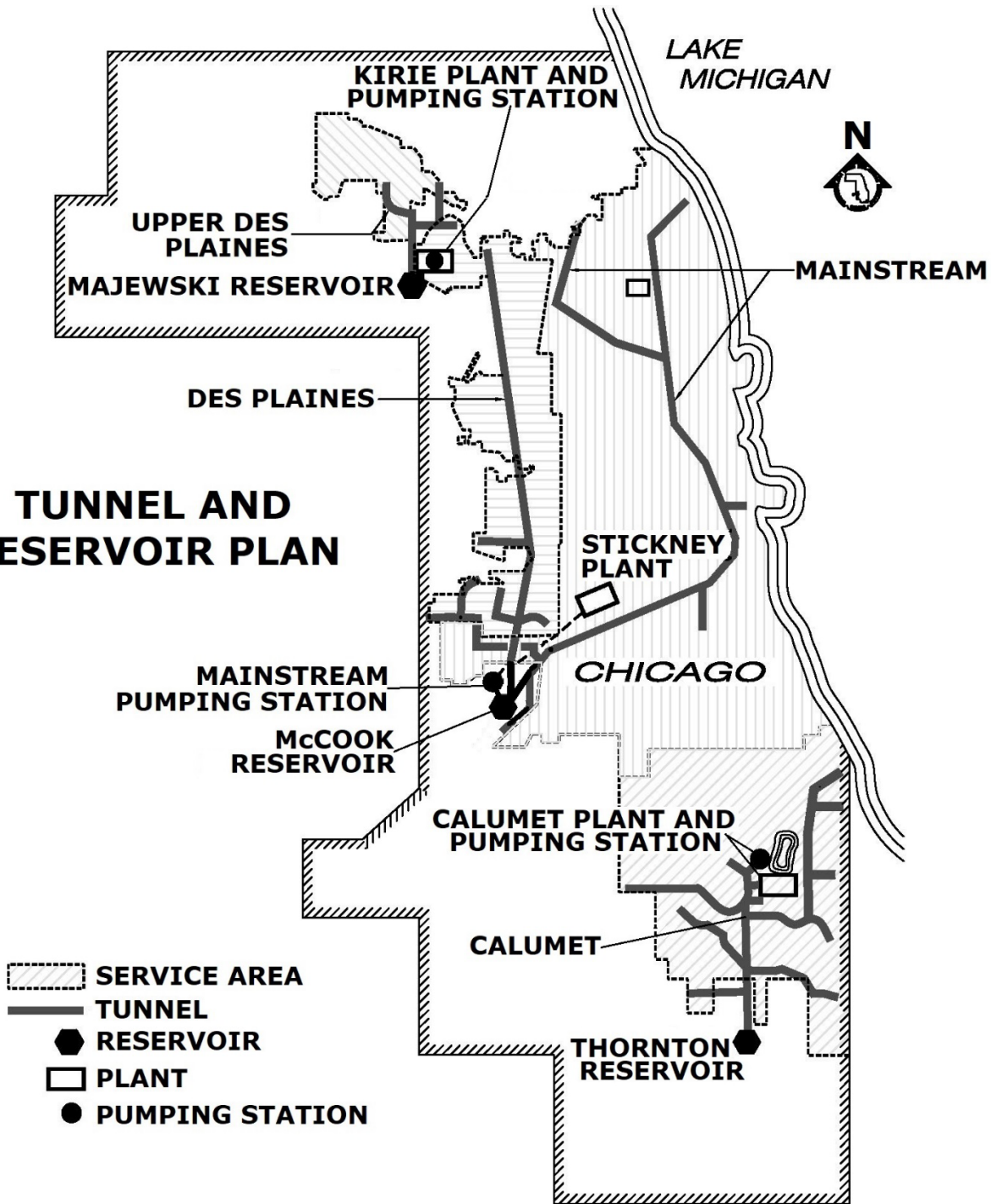
City of Chicago 1911 sewer map



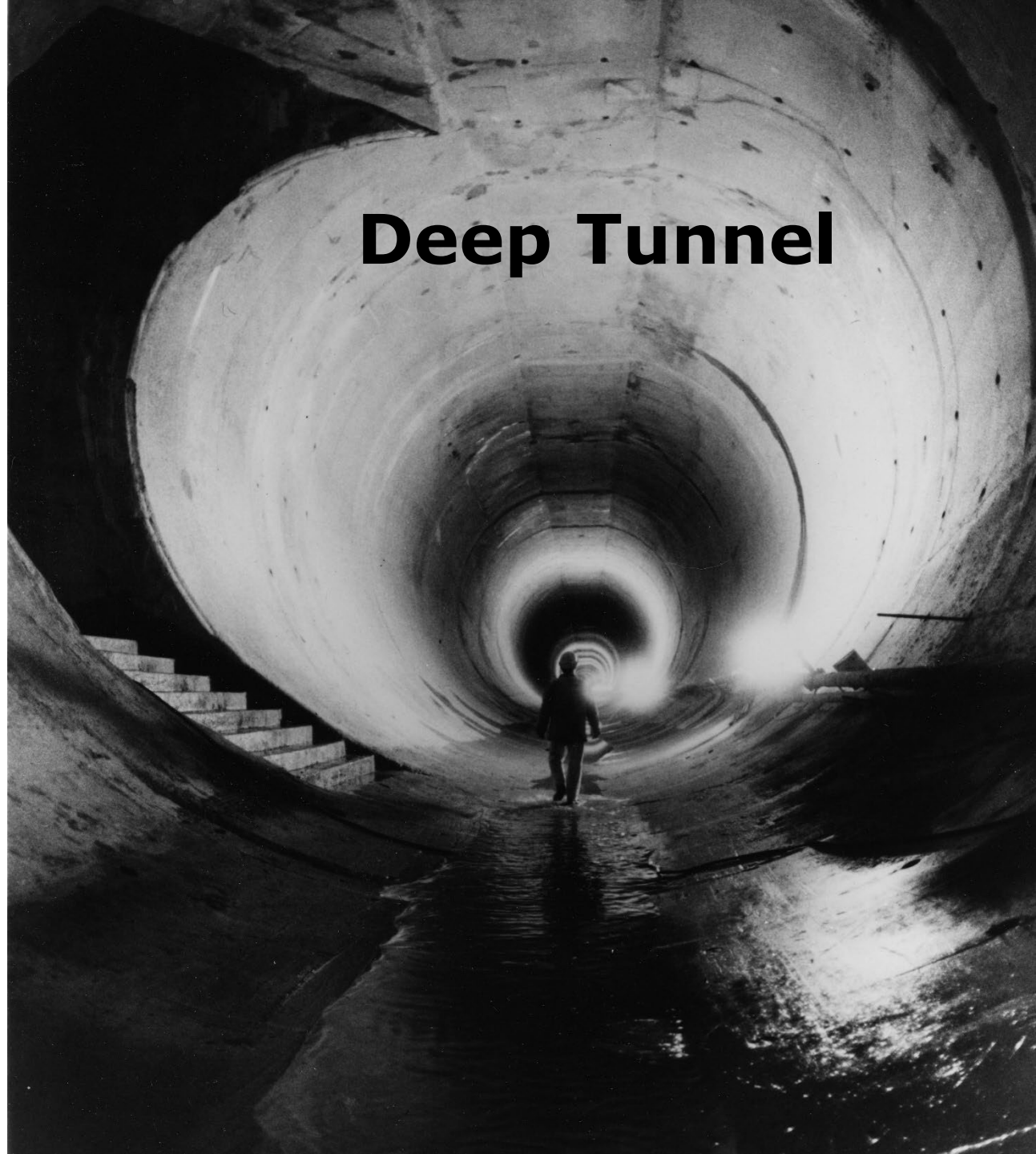
BWO-8-87

1938 Aerial Photo

TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN



Drop Shaft boot



Deep Tunnel





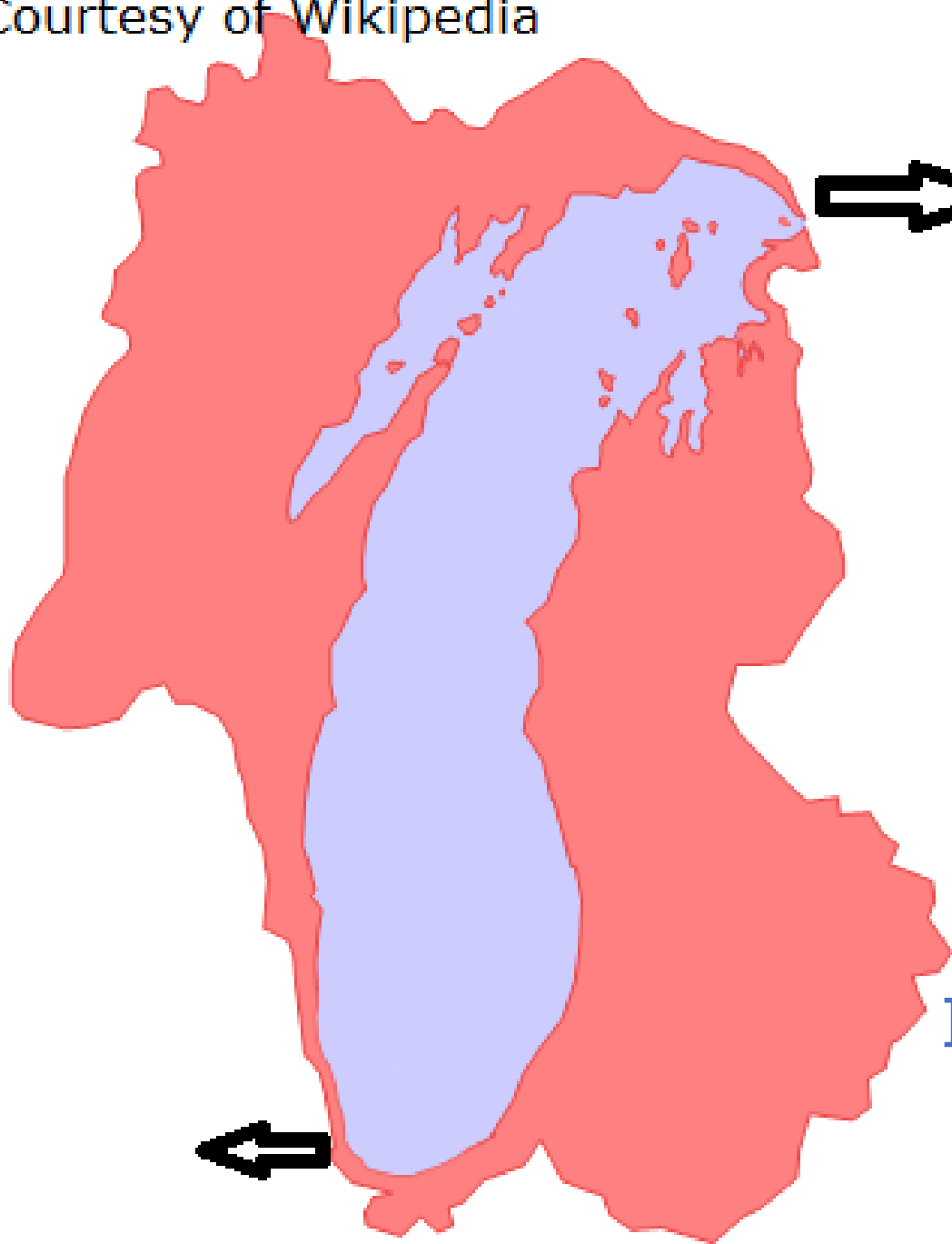
Mainstream Pumping Station

Capacity = 1,440 million gallons per day



STICKNEY WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

Courtesy of Wikipedia



IT'S ALL ABOUT
PROTECTING
LAKE MICHIGAN

A resource vital
to northeast
Illinois

Illinois wastewater is
not returned to
Lake Michigan



LAKE DIVERSION STATUS

Accounting water year 10/1
through 9/30

Latest completed report for
WY 2019 ending 9/30/2019

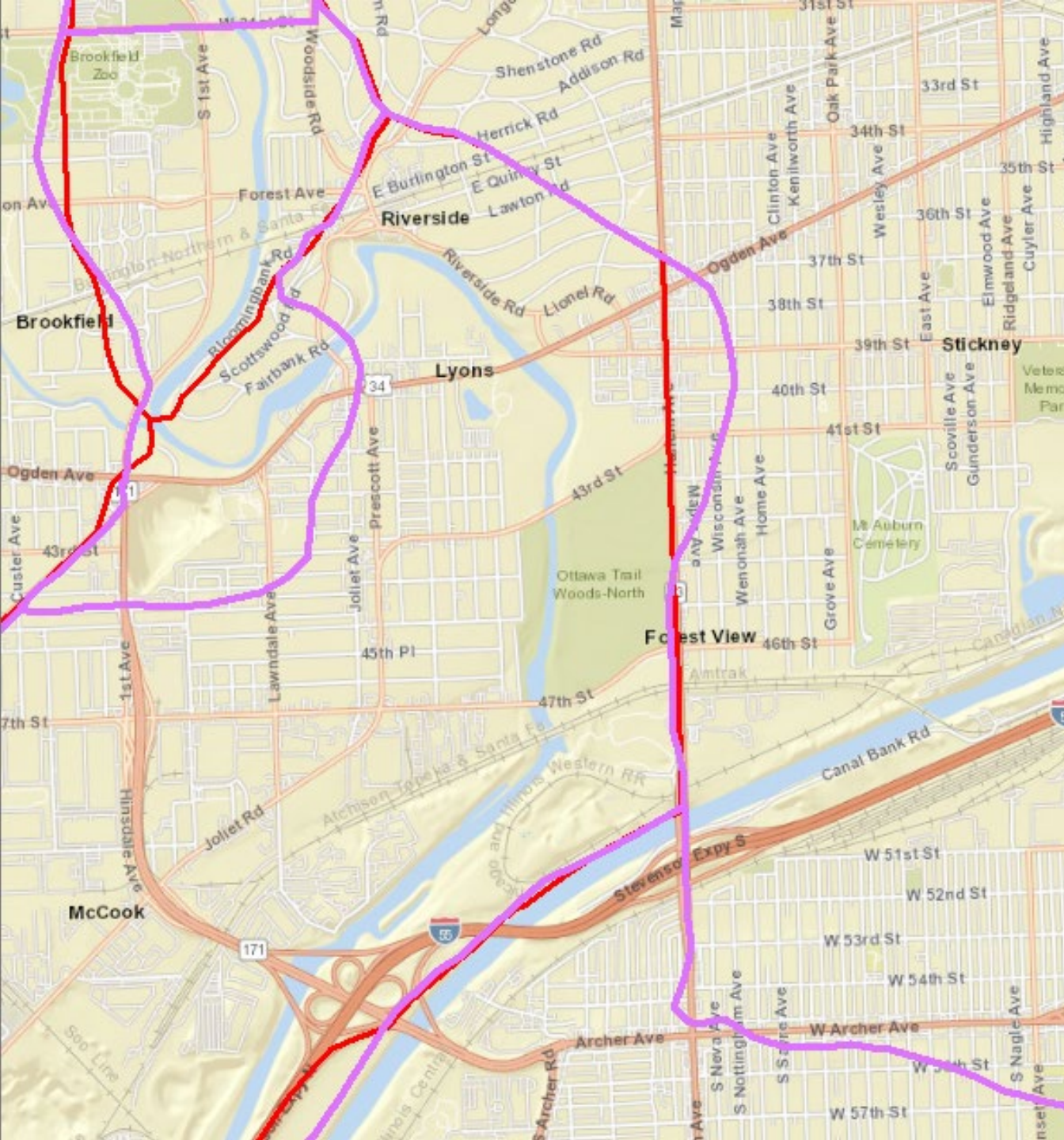
1.73 bgd diverted in year

Water supply 39%

Storm runoff 52%

Direct diversion 9%

40-year average = 1.96 bgd

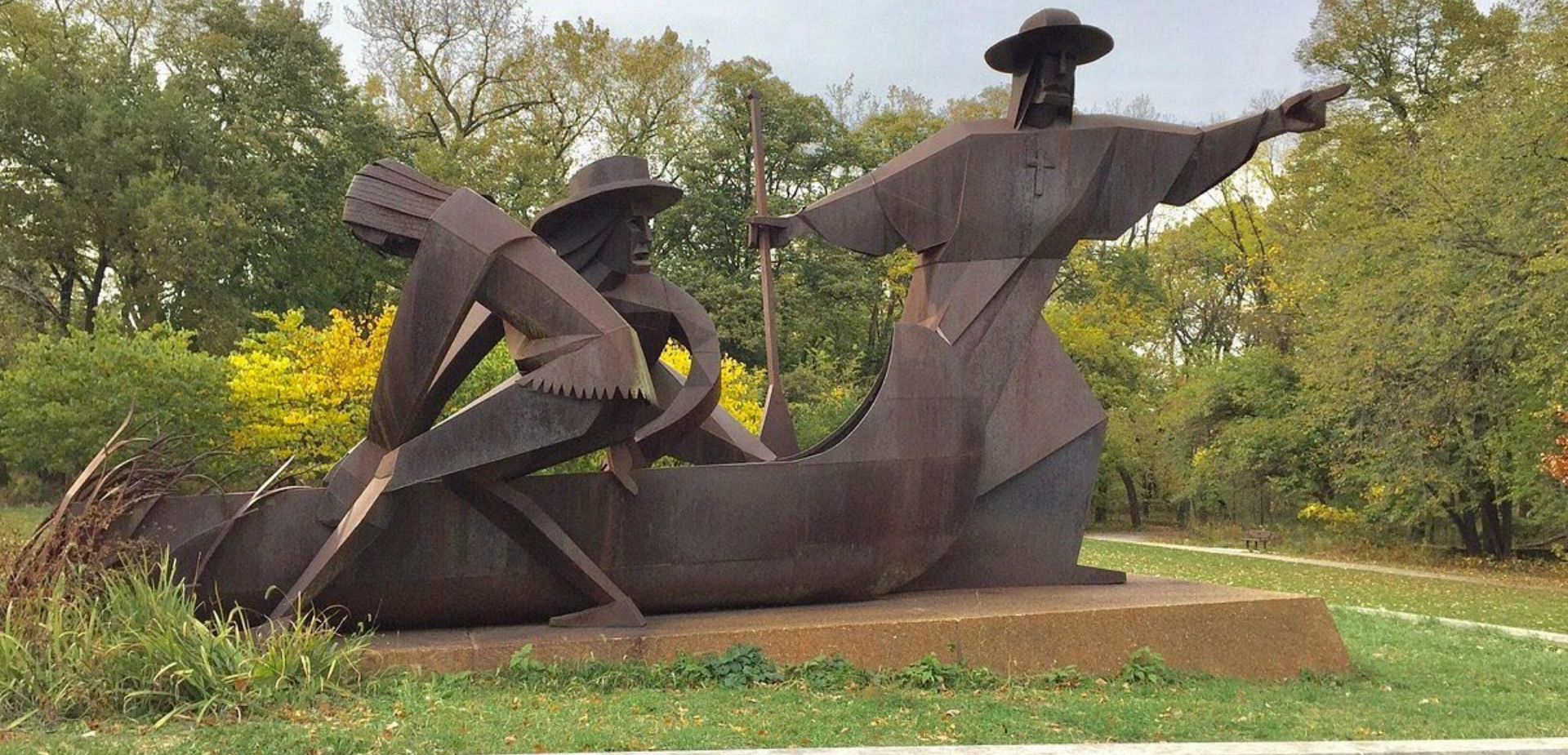


Diverted Area
Watershed
Boundary
as defined by
the US
Geological
Survey



Lanyon's Suggested Portage

Thank You for loving the Chicago Portage



ALONG THESE WATERWAYS AND TRAILS, HISTORY HAS PASSED. THE CHICAGO PORTAGE HAS SERVED AS THE CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN THE GREAT LAKES AND THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM.

CHICAGO PORTAGE
THE WATERWAY WEST

IN 1673 LED BY AMERICAN INDIANS, EXPLORERS MARQUETTE AND JOLLIET BECAME THE FIRST EUROPEANS TO CROSS THE PORTAGE. THIS ROUTE ENCOURAGED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE I & M CANAL AND THE GROWTH OF CHICAGO.

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